

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 - 54 are pending.

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) for allegedly being anticipated by Riddle et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,457,051.

The following rejections were raised under 35 U.S.C. § 103 for alleged obviousness in view of the associated references:

- claims 1, 2, 4, and 12, Riddle and Tang, U.S. Patent No. 5,378,126;
- claims 3 and 18 - 22, Riddle, Tang, and Moreno, U.S. Patent No. 5,951,674;
- claims 5 - 7 and 9, Riddle, Tang, and Del Monte, U.S. Patent No. 5,704,060;
- claims 8, 16, and 17, Riddle, Tang, Del Monte, and Eager et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,960,200
- claim 10, Riddle, Tang, Del Monte, and Moreno;
- claims 13 - 15, Riddle and Del Monte; and
- claims 30 and 37 - 41, Riddle, Tang, Del Monte, and Boucher, U.S. Patent No. 6,226,680.

Claims 23 - 29, 31 - 36, and 42 - 54 were alleged not to add any new limitations to above claims 1 - 22 and claims 37 - 41, and therefore were rejected for similar reasons.

The foregoing rejections were made final.

Counsel for Applicant is gracious for the Examiner's time and attention during a telephonic discussion on June 30, 2004. Independent claims 1, 11, 23, 31, 40, 47, and 51, and dependent claim 30 have been amended per the discussion. No new matter is believed to have been introduced by the claim amendments. The primary reference to Riddle et al. is believed to be distinguished, and the pending claims are believed to be allowable over the prior art.

Appl. No. 09/538,132
Amdt. sent August 23, 2004
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure
Examining Group


PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


George B. F. Yee
Reg. No. 37,478

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 415-576-0300
GBFY:cmm
60291564 v1